

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 3, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Detzel, Schneider, Ragen, and Shewmaker. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Attorney Pringle, Assistant Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Administrative Assistant Howard, and John O'Grady from Fortress Secured.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

None

**Public Input on Agenda Items**

**Old Business**

1. Discussion and action of financing for Station 2

We received proposals from four lenders: Webster Bank, Synovus, First Bank, and Leasing 2. Mr. Pringle provided the Board with a breakdown of the proposals from Synovus, First Bank, and Leasing 2. The proposal from Webster Bank presented at the February 17, 2022 meeting was still in effect with slight changes to decrease the financed amount from \$5,300,000 to \$3,000,000 to match the other proposals. Synovus Bank offers a fixed interest rate of 2.48% and can be paid off at any time with 90 days written notice with no penalties, and requires monthly payments. First Bank's interest rate is 2.5% per year for the first 5 years, adjusting after that up to a limit of 3.5%, but also allows pre-payment at any time at no penalty, and requires monthly payments. Leasing 2 offers an interest rate of 2.96% per year, prohibits pre-payment for the first 5 years and requires annual payments. Webster Bank agreed to the original terms they gave in February with an interest rate of 2.72% with no pre-payment in the first 5 years and a penalty of 1% of the loan balance for pre-payment in years 6-9.

The Board discussed the proposals and ranked their top two choices based on the terms presented:

1. Synovus Bank
2. First Bank

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to authorize Attorney Pringle and the Chief to negotiate a contract with Synovus Bank as the Board's first choice. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Pringle requested authorization to move directly to negotiating with First Bank if an agreement cannot be reached with Synovus.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to authorize moving directly to negotiation with First Bank in the event that an agreement cannot be reached with Synovus. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Apperson said this has been a long time coming and she is very happy to be getting the second station project going. She also thanked Mr. Pringle for breaking everything down to make it easier for the Board to compare the proposals.

Chief Dowaliby let the Board know that there is a public meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the River Hall Town Hall at 5:30 pm with Peninsula Engineering for the project.

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.